

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02171 160638Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----036401 160640Z /13

P R 160600Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1291  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 2171

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, PEPR, JO, IS, XF, PLO  
SUBJ: "ACCEPTABLE PALESTINIANS" TO PARTICIPATE WITH JORDAN  
IN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: AMMAN 1546

1. REFTTEL PRODUCES CONSIDERABLE PESSIMISM IN ME. IT SEEMS PARTICULARLY HARD TO UNDERSTAND SHARAF'S ARGUMENT IN PARA THREE OF REFTTEL THAT SOMEHOW A FREE CHOICE CALLED "SELF-DETERMINATION" CAN BE OFFERED AND YET BE SURE THAT ONE CAN AVOID AN INDEPENDENT, PLO-RUN STATE. PERHAPS THERE IS SOME SUBTLE PATH AVAILABLE HERE, BUT FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT IT IS DIFFICULT TO FIND IT.

2. WITH REGARD TO PARA THREE C OF REFTTEL. I CERTAINLY DO NOT KNOW ON WHAT BASIS HE THINKS ISRAEL DID ACCEPT THE PROPOSITION THAT "SOME MODERATE, NOT-WELL-KNOWN-PLO PALESTINIANS COULD REPRESENT THE PALESTINIANS." THE "NOT-WELL-KNOWN-PLO" FORMULATION WAS TRIED ON THE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 02171 160638Z

ISRAELIS SEVERAL TIMES LAST SUMMER AND CATEGORICALLY REJECTED. THERE IS PROBABLY SOME WAY TO FUZZ OVER THE QUESTION OF SYMPATHY FOR OR TACIT ENDORSEMENT BY THE PLO WITH REGARD TO MODERATE WEST BANKERS WHO MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE IN A NEGOTIATION. BUT IF THEY ARE IDENTIFIED AS PLO MEMBERS IN ADVANCE BEGIN HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ANYONE WITH WHOM THE ISRAELIS WOULD DEAL.

I DOUBT THAT THERE IS MUCH PERCENTAGE IN STRAIGHTENING  
OUT SHARAF AT THIS STATE, BUT WOULD NOT WANT THE RECORD  
TO BE LEFT WITHOUT CORRECTION AS WE OURSELVES THINK  
ABOUT HOW TO UNTIE THIS GORDIAN KNOT.  
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PALESTINIANS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TELAV02171  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780071-0164  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**SAS ID:** 3568739  
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**Subject:** \"ACCEPTABLE PALESTINIANS\" TO PARTICIPATE WITH JORDAN IN NEGOTIATIONS  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PBOR, PEPR, JO, IS, XF, PLO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014